Pakistan is built into the very structure of the Pakistan State. This is witnessed in the practice of separate electorates for minority communities, and the use of Pakistan's "anti-blasphemy laws" to prosecute religious minorities in Pakistan.

(c) and (d) Government are of the view that the international community is fully aware of the growing influence of religious extremism and obscurantism in Pakistan, and the consolidation of anti-minority practices and policies of the State.

India's Foreign Policy

† 3687. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our foreign policy is under external pressures;

(b) whether World Bank is going to contact the State Government directly and the Central Government is being pressurized to make the situation favourable for this purpose;

(c) whether it is also a fact that foreign countries do not give any importance to India;

(d) whether such a scenario was seen at the round-table meeting on trade union of the European Union in the past days; and

(e) whether Government would consider to make the foreign policy effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Under the Constitutional scheme, no State can borrow directly outside the territory of India. Hence there is no question of World Bank establishing direct relations with a State Government.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Conduct of foreign policy is a dynamic and continuous exercise

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

based on a realistic and pragmatic assessment of politico-strategic and socio-economic milieu around us. While basic principles and objectives of our foreign policy provide the element of continuity, our priorities and focus undergo changes in response to new challenges and developments around the World and in the neighbourhood. Of late, effects of such changes during the last three years have contributed to greater understanding and appreciation of our policies by our neighbours, and our forging a qualitatively new relationship with major powers of the World.

Myanmar visit

3688. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation headed by him visited Myanmar in February, 2001 and some agreements were signed between the two countries;

(b) whether India-Myanmar Friendship Centre for Remote Sensing and Data Processing, which was opened in Myanmar capital during the visit, has served any purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the both countries have jointly evolved any common strategy to curb activities that are against India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. No bilateral agreements were signed during this visit.

(b) and (c) The India-Myanmar Friendship Centre for Remote Sensing and Data Processing which was jointly inaugurated during the visit of the Minister of External Affairs to Myanmar would enable Myanmar to use IRS data for a range of highly useful applications in agriculture, forestry management, mineral surveys, water resources survey and monitoring of environmental pollution.